



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Tom Perez

For Immediate Release

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PEREZ CHOSEN BY ASPEN INSTITUTE PROGRAM AS AMONG 24 YOUNG AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS

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Council President Tom Perez has been chosen as one of 24 U.S. young elected officials to participate in a two-year fellowship program of the prestigious Aspen Institute intended for "true rising stars" of American politics.

The 24, drawn from the ranks of federal, state, and local governments, will discuss democratic governance and effective public service.

"We are committed to getting past the narrow partisanship of contemporary politics and rebuilding the tradition of thoughtful dialogue and political civility," said Aspen-Rodel Fellowship director and former Congressman Mickey Edwards.

"All 24 of these young men and women have reputations for intelligence and an ability to work across party lines. The common denominator is that they are among the young officials most likely to achieve even higher positions of public responsibility in the years ahead. They truly represent America's next generation of political leaders."

"I'm honored and humbled to be chosen for this program," said Perez, 43 years old, first elected to the County Council in 2002 and the highest ranking Latino official in Maryland. "I look forward to working with the other fellows to build a new American politics that is constructive rather than destructive – and one that faces honestly the difficult issues that confront us at home and abroad."

(more...)

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“It’s time to reach across party lines and bring American together,” added Perez. “It’s time we used our values as a bridge to unite us, rather than as a wedge to divide us.”

The young political leaders were chosen after an eight-month search process that involved over 1,400 business, political, and civic leaders.

The 24 fellows include seven members of Congress, two lieutenant governors (including Michael Steele, along with Perez the only Marylanders chosen), two state treasurers, two secretaries of state, an attorney general, a mayor, a city council member, a county council president, and seven state legislators.

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